

MEMORIAL VILLAGES POLICE

CRIME ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Two weeks - - March 21 - April 4, 2014

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For quick reference in reporting crimes or suspicious activity, program our dispatch number into the speed dial of your home and cellular telephone:

713-365-3700

CRIME ANALYSIS SUMMARY

March 21st through March 27th 2014

BUNKER HILL

On March 21st an officer responded to the 11800 block of Stuckey Lane in reference to criminal mischief. The victim's rear windshield of their vehicle had been broken out. Nothing was removed from the vehicle. The damage appeared to possibly have been caused from a rock or debris from someone doing yard work nearby.

On March 24th an officer responded to a residence on rip Van Winkle Lane in reference to a theft. The victim had construction scaffolding stolen from the work site.

On March 25th an officer responded to the 11700 block of Greenbay Drive in reference to an identity theft. An unknown person opened a credit card account in the victim's name.

PINEY POINT

On March 21st an officer responded to the 11500 block of Shadow Way Street in reference to an identity theft. The victim's information was used to file a 2013 tax return. The victim had not filed their 2013 taxes as of the report date.

On March 26th an officer responded to a residence on Blalock Circle in reference to identity theft. The victim had their information used to file a 2013 tax return. The victim had not filed their 2013 taxes as of the report date.

HUNTERS CREEK

On March 23rd an officer responded to the 10900 block of Roaring Brook Lane in reference to an identity theft. The victim had their information used to file a 2013 tax return. The victim had not filed their 2013 taxes as of the report date.

On March 24th an officer responded to the 10900 block of Beinhorn Road in reference to a fraud report. An unknown person attempted to cash fraudulent checks on the victim's account. The check was not cashed and the victim did not have a monetary loss.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Can Identity Theft Be Prevented?

The Answer is Both Yes and No.

I like to compare identity theft with someone trying to break into your house. Can you prevent someone from breaking into your house? Well, you can do things to make it hard for them. You can install locks, alarms, and security cameras. You can hire security experts and armed guards.

Would it still be possible for someone to break in with all that in place? Sure, if they were determined enough and had more armed guards than you or better technology. We've seen it a million times in the movies.

The same is true for identity theft prevention. You can make it more difficult for someone, but nothing can 100% guarantee that you won't become a victim. Just being smart, however, will greatly lower your chances.

We've listed some common-sense ways of preventing identity theft below. You should also consider credit monitoring. That will help you detect identity theft if your prevention tactics fail.

Your Personal Data is Like Gold. Don't Let Someone Turn it Into Lead.

By following these simple tips, you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim of identity theft:

- Do not carry your extra credit cards, Social Security card, birth certificate, or passport in your wallet or purse except when necessary. This practice minimizes the amount of information a thief can steal. Photocopy everything in your wallet so if it is stolen you know exactly who to call.
- Do not click on links in any emails you receive from financial institutions – even if you're 100% sure they're legitimate. Instead, go to your browser and type in the domain name of the institution (e.g. www.wellsfargo.com or www.paypal.com) and then login to your account. Some emails you receive about your financial accounts are actually fake and are called "phishing" emails.

- Make sure your computer is set to automatically download the latest patches and fixes. Any computer operating systems will have security holes. You will want to install a new fix once they are discovered and patched. Both Microsoft Windows and Mac have an easy method for doing this.
- Install virus and spyware detection software and keep them updated.
- Install a lockable mailbox at your residence to reduce mail theft.
- Take credit card receipts with you. Never toss them in a public trash container.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended at work or in church, restaurants, health fitness clubs, parties, or shopping carts. Never leave your purse or wallet in open view in your car, even when your car is locked.
- Destroy all checks immediately after you close a checking account. Destroy or keep in a secure place any courtesy checks that your bank or credit card company sends to you.
- Do not have your bank send your new checks to your home address. Tell the bank that you prefer to pick them up.
- Reconcile your check and credit card statements in a timely fashion, and challenge any purchases you did not make.
- Limit the number of credit cards you have, and cancel any inactive accounts.
- Never give any credit card, bank, or Social Security information to anyone by telephone, even if you made the call, unless you can positively verify that the call is legitimate.
- Minimize exposure of your Social Security and credit card numbers. If the numbers are requested for check-cashing purposes, ask if the business has alternative options such as a check-cashing card.
- Do not allow your financial institution to print your Social Security number on your personal checks.
- Safeguard your credit, debit, and ATM card receipts. Shred them before discarding.
- Scrutinize your utility and subscription bills to make sure the charges are yours.
- Memorize your passwords and personal identification numbers (PINs) so you do not have to write them down. Be aware of your surroundings to make sure no one is watching you input your PIN.
- Keep a list of all your credit accounts and bank accounts in a secure place so you can quickly call the issuers to inform them about missing or stolen cards. Include account numbers, expiration dates, and telephone numbers of customer service and fraud departments.
- Do not toss pre-approved credit offers in your trash or recycling bin without first shredding them.

- Dumpster divers use these offers to order credit cards in your name and mail them to their address. Always do the same with other sensitive information like credit card receipts, phone bills, and such.
- If you don't receive your billing statement, notify the company immediately.

Again, none of these tips are guaranteed to prevent identity theft. You just want to make it more difficult for someone to steal your identity.

CRIME ANALYSIS SUMMARY

March 28th through April 4th 2014

BUNKER HILL

On March 29th a subject turned in a found wallet to the Memorial Villages Police Department. The owner was found and the wallet was returned to the owner by mail.

On April 3rd officers responded to the 11900 block of Taylorcrest Road in reference to a possibly intoxicated person. Officers arrived and found a highly intoxicated female that was a danger to herself and others. The female subject was placed under arrest for public intoxication.

On April 3rd an officer responded to a residence on Williamsburg Lane in reference to an identity theft. The victim's information was used to obtain a 2 payday loans. This case is currently under investigation.

PINEY POINT

On March 28th an officer stopped a vehicle in the 600 block of Blalock Road for traffic violation. During the stop the driver was found to have a suspended driver's license and to have an active warrant from Harris County Sheriff's Office. The driver was placed under arrest for the violations.

On April 2nd an officer responded to a residence on Mott Lane in reference to an identity theft. An unknown person had applied and was trying to obtain a mortgage loan using the victim's information. This case is currently under investigation.

HUNTERS CREEK

On March 29th an officer responded to the 10800 block of Hunters Forest Drive in reference to a burglary of a building. The victim had assorted yard equipment removed from a storage shed. There were no signs of forced entry and no suspects at this time.

On April 2nd an officer responded to a residence on Cape Cod Lane in reference to an identity theft. The victim's email account was accessed to try and obtain monies in a wire transfer. The victim was notified before the transaction took place and cancelled the transaction before the transfer was completed.

On April 3rd an officer responded to the 700 block of Camelot Lane in reference to an identity theft. The victim received a phone call from Coppell Police Department about an unknown person trying to use the victim's driver's license number to obtain an apartment lease.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

This week we have a couple incidents/suggestions that we would like to share to make our residents more aware. Hedwig Village Police Department has had three incidents where victim's pulled into parking lots and a vehicle pulled up behind them blocking them in. The passenger gets out of the vehicle and approaches the passenger side of the vehicle and busts out the window and steals a purse from inside the vehicle. The suspect(s) have been targeting Asian females that are alone in their vehicles.

The suspect has been described as either a black male or a dark skinned Hispanic male, clean shaven approximately 25 years old. The vehicle has been described as a white or silver later model sedan. The incidents have occurred between 7 pm – Midnight.

We would like everybody to be aware of their surroundings especially when you are alone and in parking lots. If you observe something suspicious it possibly is suspicious, don't stop. Drive somewhere populated or the closet's police or fire department to seek help. As always you can dial 911 on your cell phone and stay on the line with the police dispatcher as they gather information and get help to you.

Always remember to be aware of what is going on around you.

Technology: It can help, but it can also hurt.

Cell phones. How did we ever get along without them? They bring peace of mind when traveling should there be car trouble. Business can be conducted anywhere at any time. Children can call their parents to pick them up when practice is over. Twenty years ago, busy executives were the only ones who had cell phones. Today they are as common as a purse or wallet and coveted by children. Cell phone technology is growing faster than kudzu. We can talk, play music, take photographs, record video, check e-mail, get directions, make reservations, and send text messages. The benefits and capabilities of cell phones are many. So are the dangers.

Distracted While Driving

Concentration is one of the most important elements of safe driving. Operating a motor vehicle is a serious responsibility. Lack of concentration can dull a person's powers of observation and cause an accident that could have been avoided. If you or your child chooses to use a cell phone while driving, take the following precautions:

- Assess traffic conditions before calling
- Place calls when stopped, have a passenger call, or pull off the road
- Use speaker phone or hands-free device
- Avoid intense, emotional, or complicated conversations
- Avoid talking on the phone in congested traffic or bad weather
- Avoid texting while driving

Sexting

This is a new term that means “the use of a cell phone to send sexually suggestive texts or e-mails with nude or nearly nude photos.”

- 39% of all teens have sent sexually suggestive texts.
- 48% of teens say they have received such messages.
- 71% of teen girls and 67% of teen guys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent/posted this content to a boyfriend/girlfriend.
- 21% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say they have sent such content to someone they wanted to date or hook up with.
- 38% of teens say they have had sexually suggestive text messages, originally meant for someone else, and shared with them.
- 25% of teen girls and 33% of teen boys say they have had semi-nude or nude images, originally meant for someone else, and shared with them.

Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

Things to think about before you press “send”

Think about the consequences of taking, sending, or forwarding a sexual picture of someone underage, even if it’s of you. You could get kicked off of sports teams, face humiliation, lose education opportunities, and even get in trouble with the law.

Never take images of yourself that you wouldn’t want everyone—your classmates, your teachers, your family, or your employers—to see. Before hitting send, remember that you can’t control where this image may travel. What you send to a boyfriend or girlfriend could easily end up with their friends, and their friends, and their friends.

If you forward a sexual picture of someone underage, you are as responsible for this image as the original sender. You could face child pornography charges, go to jail, and have to register as a sex offender. Report any nude pictures you receive on your cell phone to an adult you trust. Do not delete the message. Instead, get your parents or guardians, teachers, and school counselors involved immediately.

Source: NetSmartz.org

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